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SPEECH OF HENRY CLAY,

AT THE



LEXINGTON MASS MEETING,

23
13th NOVEMBER, 1847,

TOGETHER WITH THE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED ON THAT OCCASION.

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ought to be continued. And, I think, in an honest and authentic act, and a better one for which I am executed. I suppose the President is pronounced will do the Congress, and the nation to exert the best will. But, I, so, and, in consequence of the superior waging the War, the other objects of the be the imperatively duty of that body, and an effectual and appropriate measures, refuse to conclude a treaty, something still Congress, it would become the duty of with all the national energy, and the There can be no insuperable obstacle to declaration. Let it resolve, I repeat, the quest; and, if a War of the Congress pass, disclaiming the desire, and if the President would command the

Here, fellow-citizens, I hold up to you, through its recorded and legal title, the whole purposes and objects of the War, the whole people of the Nation's arms, and their treasure further expended up and concealed in the bosom of these objects of the War varying from one to the Chief Magistrate charged with its stop here. It is the privilege of the private man, however humble, to expose which the War should be considered with much consideration and consequence.

Shall this war be prosecuted not only in all its boundless extent, to the final

I will not attribute to the President the confession I have been shocked and alarmed at. Of all the dangers and misfortunes of that of its becoming a war-like and a History tells the mournful tale of the most celebrated conquerors, in the case of Napoleon. The cities of his overrunning lamenting that there were no more of death. His lieutenants quarreled and victories, and finally lost them all. His triumphant legions to Rome, passed upon the liberties of his country, and Rome ceased to be free. War and the spirit of true liberty was dying in some of whom were the most excellent. And that most extraordinary in the continental Europe, occupying almost all to M. Thiers, proud Alphonse de family with a crown torn from his own dear France itself in the wretched captive, and far more last on the distant and inhospitable had been defined as the nation secured in the treaties to which people of Venezuela or Greece, or collection, by the millions of immense sacrifices of the liberty itself.

That the power of the Federal Reserve is quite probable. And that the power of the

lution, according to which, laws ought not to be levied, without representation on the part of the other. Then Mexico is to participate in the legislation and government. But suppose the representatives to the National Congress, is ours alone, and by force to compel them, at the point of bayonet, how are the nine millions of Mexican people to be United States of America, and the Congress of Mexico combined? Is every Mexican, without exception, to exercise the elective franchise? How is the two Republics to be fixed? Where is their capital to be established? And who can foresee or foretell, if we share in the common government, what will be the result. Unprepared, as I fear, for population, for language, for government, and of habits, customs, language, manners, and laws, our own, we should present the revolving wheel of a Poly Government. We would have a Mexican, a Mexican Party, in addition to the other parties which would be formed; each striving to execute its own particular policy, the others with thwarting and disappointing them. The Congress would probably form a separate and independent party, throw itself into the scale of any other party, to all interests. Such a state of things could not long endure, and if we have pronounced should live asunder, could not be permanently united together.

Do we want for our own happiness or growth, the existing Union of our States? If our population is so small, there was a difficulty in obtaining honorable peace, and some excuse for an attempt to enlarge our territory. We have already, in our glorious country, a territory beginning at the North, in the frozen regions of the Pole, and extends for thousands of miles along the coast of the Atlantic, to the Gulf, and most reaches the Tropics. It extends to the Pacific, to the land seas, the Lakes, which separate us from the Gulf, and embraces the great father of rivers, from its mouth, to the still longer Missouri from its mouth to the Gulf, and comprehends the greatest variety of the riches of the earth, except tea and coffee, and the climate which the heart can wish or desire. Millions of acres of waste and unsettled land — more than twenty times our present population. Ought we not to be profoundly satisfied with such a vast and bountiful land? Is it not to be obtained by war and conquest, indulging in a spirit of conquest, the homes and habitations of a large portion of the human race, the object of such a conquest, besides being given to the country for ages to come, in the form of a loan, would greatly to augment that Debt by our assumption of the National Debt of Mexico. For I take it, that if we obtain voluntarily or by conquest a territory, the encumbrances attached to it. In my humble opinion, it is a morality, to pay the just debt of Texas, and to pay the same obligations, to pay the debt of Mexico, if we obtain it.

Of the possessions which appertain to a nation, none should be preserved and cherished with more care than that of an unsullied character. It is impossible to be a nation when attached to an individual, nor can it be expected to be a nation. Those who lose or are indifferent to it, are contempt. Of all the abominable transactions which have exceeded in enormity that of the dismemberment and the great continental powers—Russia, Austria, and Prussia.

that will be an record- endure, all mankind will unite in
 that noble deed. That was accomplished by over-
 coming the male existence of fatal dissensions and divisions in
 our ranks, affording to our name and national character, a
 new and noble stand well in the opin-
 ion of all. Regret is brought upon us much reproach,
 for our position in the present War, as
 a nation, and our desire for territorial aggran-
 dization, and our opinions. Let us command
 our passions and desires. In the elevated station
 we occupy, we must see the virtues of moderation and
 self-restraint, and not follow our gulfant command-
 ing passions. We must stand firmly on without the least
 compromise, and disinterestedly holding out the olive branch
 to our enemies, the morasses, and the sterile lands
 which we can be humiliating, and be a perpetual source
 of trouble. It might prove a fatal acquisition, producing
 a permanent burden. Let therefore, the integrity of the
 territory of Mexico remain undisturbed. For one, I
 am not in favor of war. Some of our people have
 been in the habit of going to San Francisco in Upper Califor-
 nia, and have been of advantage hereafter,
 and in the interests. To Mexico, which can never
 be of advantage. If we can obtain it
 we can be happy to see it so acquired. As
 we are required to pay the debts due our citi-
 zens, and the Government in that debt, our Government
 can never portion of it may be applied to that object.
 In the prosecution of the War, which I would not con-
 sider a waste of our harbor.

And we make peace without any indemnity for the ex-
 penses of the War. I am in relation to the late negotiations
 with the Commissioners be true, and I have not seen
 as Mexico have properly waived any demand of indemni-
 ty. The rupture of that negotiation was produced
 by the cession from Mexico of the strip of mostly barren
 land, Rio Bravo, and New Mexico, which Mexico refused
 to give up. For the conquest of all Mexico, as in-
 timidated, and for the barren province of New
 Mexico. Though, all the province of Louisiana for
 the conquest of all Mexico, worth more than all Mexico to-
 gether. It was a hard bargain it was,
 and the Rio Bravo, to which I think,
 and the province of Louisiana, and were restrict-
 ed to the conquest of all Mexico,
 and the objects to which I have just

indemnity for the expenses of the War?
 secondary indemnity, if the justice of the
 country has been laid waste, her cities
 are so exhausted that she is unable to pay
 for the execution of the War, while it would aug-
 ment the ability of Mexico to pay it. We
 cannot form in which we are to demand indemnity,
 and we already stated, that that is the

and I present for your consideration at
 the same time, to disavow, in
 our name, to acquire any foreign territory
 by force. I do not know if any citi-
 zen has. Put such a motive has of been

to be made, and to be made, but which, there would be just cause to apprehend would be a gross violation, extended over the people of the United States. That we do not entertain such an opinion, as wholly incompatible with the genius of our Government, and the character of free and liberal institutions; and we anxiously hope that the Republic may be left in the undisturbed possession of its own laws, language, character, religion and territory, to pursue its own happiness, according to what it may deem best and right.

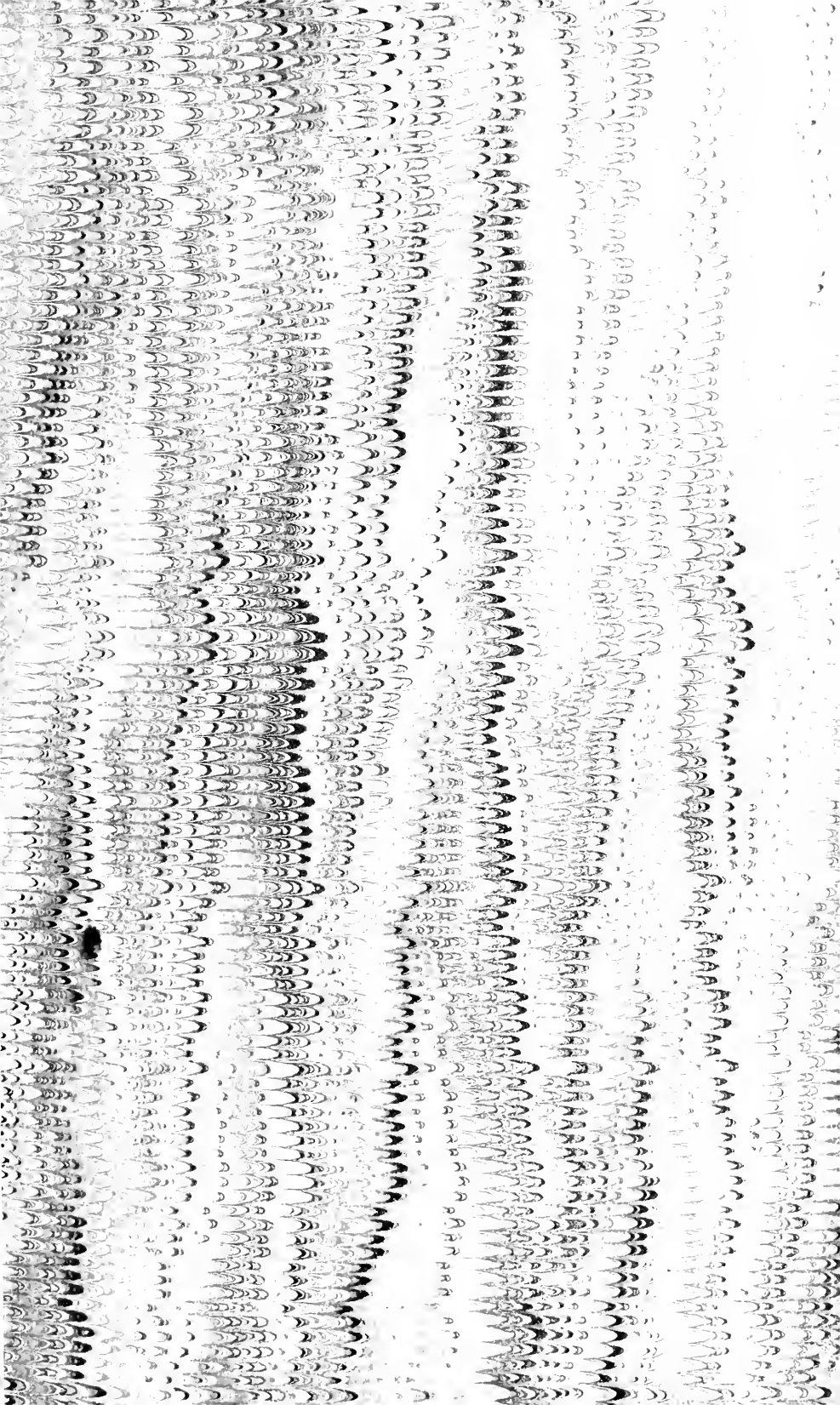
Mr. Webster. That considering the series of splendid and brilliant victories achieved by our brave armies and their gallant commanders, during the War with Mexico, unmarred by a single reverse, the United States, who at any danger of their honor suffering the slightest tarnish, can practice the virtues of moderation and magnanimity towards their discomfited foe. We have no desire for the dismemberment of the United States of the Republic of Mexico, but wish only a just and proper fixation of the limits of Texas.

Mr. Toole. *Mr. Webster* has positively and emphatically disclaim and disavow any violation of the Constitution, in seizing any foreign territory whatever, for the purpose of propagating slavery or of introducing slaves from the United States into such foreign territory.

He has also declared that he is not aware of any citizens of the United States, who are anxious to terminate the present war, or desirous of peace, or, if the existing War shall continue to the present year, that its purposes and objects shall be defined and known, and its progress shall be preserved, in future perils and dangers with which it may be attended, and that they assemble us to produce contentment and satisfaction at home, and to be contented and satisfied abroad, to assemble together in their respective countries, and to express their views, feelings and opinions.

After calling the votes and handing them to the Secretary, Mr. Clay concluded by apologizing for the length of time which he had trespassed upon the meeting, and thanking the gentlemen most cordially for the honor done him by their attendance on this occasion, and the profound attention with which they had listened to him.





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